



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

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ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 21, 2019

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Commission Members Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Curt Connors, Susan Chapnick, and Pam Heidell; Associate Commissioner Cathy Garnett; and Conservation Agent Emily Sullivan. Commissioner M. Nonni was absent. Also present were Vicki Hibbard, Lynn Focht, Sven Birkerts, Downing Cless, Mary Trudeau, and Brad Barber.

Administrative

02/28/2019 Meeting Minutes

The Commission discussed edits to the draft minutes. C. Connors motioned to approve the minutes as edited, S. Chapnick seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Dudley Street Sidewalk - Engineering Project

E. Sullivan summarized that the Department of Public Works is planning a project to replace the sidewalk and railing along a small section of Dudley Street, and would like to install a segment of underground chamber to increase flood storage capacity under the sidewalk. The Engineering Division would like to know if this work could be considered maintenance or if the Town would need to submit a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA).

The Commission discussed the project and recommended that the Town Engineer submit an RDA.

Invasives Species ID and Management Training

E. Sullivan informed that she had reached out to Mass Audubon, MassDEP, and DCR regarding an invasive species training for the Land Stewards. She will update the Commission at the April 4th meeting with the training proposals she receives.

Continuing Education and Trainings

E. Sullivan reminded the Commission that if anyone is interested in specific training topics (e.g. stormwater) she can look into available sessions or resources. E. Sullivan will also make sure to forward any Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions resources to the Commission.

Notice of intent (continued from 2/28/2019): 66 Hutchinson Road

E. Sullivan summarized the Commission's discussion from the 2/28/2019 hearing and the information that the Commission requested during the hearing. The Commission requested that the Town Engineer review the proposal's stormwater plan, that the narrative include language about climate change resilience per Section 31 of the local wetlands regulations, and that page 3 of the Notice of Intent be corrected and resubmitted. The Applicant and Applicant's Representative submitted all requested information in preparation for this hearing. The Town Engineer reviewed and approved the proposed stormwater plan.

The project work includes building a patio, several retaining walls, a stormwater infiltration system, rain garden, and planting beds in the property's backyard. The proposed stormwater runoff infiltration system is a cultec system. The patio and walls create a net increase of 547 square feet of impervious surface onsite.

D. White motioned to close the public hearing, C. Connors seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

The Commission discussed the project and deliberated which conditions to apply to the project. The Commission agreed to add a condition to monitor and report on the proposed plantings for three years, an ongoing condition to maintain the cultec system per manufacturer recommendations, and an ongoing condition to appropriately maintain the proposed rain garden. N. Stevens recommended referring to the 107 Fairmont Street Order of Conditions for an example of an ongoing maintenance condition for cultec units. P. Heidell recommended referring to the 2 Garden Street Order of Conditions for an example of an ongoing maintenance condition for cultec units.

D. White motioned to approve the NOI under the Wetlands Protection Act and Arlington Wetlands Protection Bylaw, including the Commissions' standard conditions and special conditions; P. Heidell seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Working Session: 67 Dothan Street

E. Sullivan summarized that the property owners were interested in removing Japanese Knotweed from their backyard, which falls within the 100-ft wetlands buffer. The property owners also expressed concern with constant surface water puddling and pooling along their sideyard.

C. Garnett recommended cutting back or mowing the Japanese Knotweed and covering the area with black fabric to suffocate the invasives. S. Chapnick reminded the property owners that dumping organic material and yard waste into the brook/along the brook's banks is an act of non-compliance.

N. Stevens recommended working with a wetlands consultant or civil engineer to resolve the pooling issue. C. Tirone reminded the property owners that the pooling water cannot be directly

discharged into the brook in their backyard, but that the water can be treated beforehand and then directed into the brook. C. Garnett recommended looking into the feasibility of a rain garden. S. Chapnick recommended working with the property's neighbor to find a solution to the pooling, such as reorienting the neighbor's stormwater pipe away from the pooling area.

Working Session (continued from 2/28/2019): 47 Spy Pond Lane, Lot 1/A

The Commission reviewed the documents they received from S. Seaver and M. Trudeau since the 3/7/2019 working session, including communication with Town Engineer W. Chouinard in regards to feasibility and maintenance of a stormwater quality unit near the property. M. Trudeau summarized that W. Chouinard recommended the 1100 Vortech Unit at the intersection of Spy Pond Parkway and Roanoke Road. According to S. Seaver's calculations, the entire project cost for the stormwater unit and installation would total approximately \$70,000: \$34,000 for the unit and \$36,000 for the installation. S. Seaver believes that the \$70,000 project is too expensive given that the stormwater unit is an added offsite mitigation. Instead of installing a unit at the intersection of Spy Pond Parkway and Roanoke Road, he proposed installing a smaller unit in Spy Pond Lane in front of the property or donating \$35,000 to the Town to construct a stormwater unit where the Town determines appropriate.

M. Trudeau calculated the cost of all the mitigation measures proposed for Lot 1/A, which include: permeable driveway pavers, a stormwater infiltration unit that captures the entire structure's stormwater runoff, vegetated mitigation buffer within 25-ft of the pond, and a non-mortared wall delineating the mitigation buffer. The entire cost of these items is approximately \$40,000.

The Commission discussed other locations for a proximate stormwater unit, and discussed both the need to capture a rain's first flush and some amount of total rainfall.

D. Cless, a member of the public, stated that S. Seaver has not proven sufficiently whether a smaller house is marketable.

M. Trudeau requested that the working session be continued to the 4/4/2019 Conservation Commission meeting.

P. Heidell requested that the finished and unfinished total area of the home be calculated for the 4/4/2019 working session.

Working Session: Spy Pond Trails Day - Tree Planting

On behalf of the Spy Pond Committee, B. Barber presented the proposal for this year's Spy Pond Trails Day, which is scheduled for May 11, 2019. The Spy Pond Committee is proposing to plant 50 Dogwood shrubs, 4 Eastern Red Cedars, and various native groundcovers to mitigate erosion caused by fishermen along the pond's banks and to manage invasives growth. The plantings will be installed along the southern shore of Spy Pond, adjacent to the Route 2

Path and along the existing granite stairs. The Spy Pond Committee is working with MassDOT, the Arlington Garden Club, and the Appalachian Mountain Club to execute this project.

B. Barber requested \$200 of funding for the Arlington Conservation Land Stewards Fund, which is administered by the Conservation Commission with the funds held by the Arlington Land Trust. C. Tirone motioned to approve this request, S. Chapnick seconded, all were in favor, motion approved. No permit is needed for the plantings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

The Conservation Commission's next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 4th, 2019 at 7:30pm in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Sullivan